

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 03118 170933Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
-----044547 170935Z /10

O R 170900Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 504
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 3118

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR KS US
SUBJ: PRESS COVERAGE OF LETTER CLARIFYING ALLEGED BUGGING AFFAIR

REF: SEOUL 3104 (DTG 170609Z APR 78)

1. SUMMARY: APRIL 17 AFTERNOON PRESS TREATS AS HEADLINE OR
PROMINENT FRONTPAGE AMBASSADOR'S LETTER IN RESPONSE TO BUGGING
ALLEGATION. ACCOMPANYING FACTUAL COVERAGE, FOUR OF FIVE PAPERS
CARRY COMMENTARY WHICH GENERALLY CONSIDERS THE LETTER
"INSUFFICIENT". END SUMMARY.

2. ONLY CHUNGANG ILBO CARRIES FULL TEXT OF MOFA STATEMENT.
ALL PRESS HIGHLIGHTS LETTER AS (1) OFFICIAL USG CLARIFICATION THAT
ALLEGED BUGGING DID NOT OCCUR AND (2) EXPRESSION OF "REGRET" OVER
THE INCIDENT.

3. COMMENTARIES CONSIDER LETTER "INSUFFICIENT" FROM THE STAND-
POINT OF KOREAN PUBLIC OPINION. CHUNGANG ILBO NOTES "THE FIRE
HAS BEEN DAMPENED FOR THE TIME BEING" BUT OPINES THE
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LETTER RESPONSE WAS "CLEARLY A POLITICAL ONE" CONCERNED
MORE WITH ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES RATHER THAN THE
SUBSTANCE OF AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REMARKS. COMMENTARY
CONTINUES THAT THE NEED FOR PROMPT RETURN TO NORMAL FRIENDLY
RELATIONS AND LACK OF HARD EVIDENCE OF THE ALLEGED
BUGGING COMBINE TO SETTLE THE ISSUE BY "THIS INSUFFICIENT
U.S. MEASURE".

4. SEOUL SINMUN COMMENTARY SAYS "IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONSIDER THIS AS OFFERING AN EXPLANATION SUFFICIENT TO CONVINCE THE KOREAN PEOPLE" AND ASSERTS THERE SHOULD HAVE BEEN AN EXPLANATION OF "HOW AMBASSADOR PORTER'S REMARKS WERE DIFFERENT FROM FACT". KYONGHYANG SINMUN COMMENTARY SAYS THE ISSUE IS "SETTLED ON A DIPLOMATIC LEVEL, BUT INSUFFICIENT AS FAR AS THE NATIONAL SENTIMENT IS CONCERNED".

5. TONGA ILBO COMMENTARY SAYS "IT IS NO MORE THAN A RECORD IN WRITING OF HITHERTO VAGUE DENIALS, LACKING DIRECT AND CLEARCUT EXPLANATION". THE COMMENTARY CONSIDERS THE LETTER RESPONSE TO HAVE BEEN THE "MINIMUM DEGREE OF SINCERITY REQUIRED" BUT ONE WHICH "GIVES THE IMPRESSION OF BEING A POLITICAL STOP-GAP METHOD". TONGA ILBO GOSSIP COLUMN NOTES MOFA SHOWED "AN UNUSUALLY DISCREET ATTITUDE BY NOT MAKING ANY OFFICIAL COMMENT" (OTHER THAN FORMAL MOFA ANNOUNCEMENT) AND THAT "MOFA AUTHORITIES HINTED VERY STRONGLY THAT THE LETTER WILL SETTLE THE ISSUE".
SNEIDER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SURVEILLANCE, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Film Number: D780163-1268
Format: TEL
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780448/aaaabpdm.tel
Line Count: 83
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: a64b88ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PEPR, SOPN, PINR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
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